

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoko SUZUKI et al.

Serial No. NEW : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**

Filed January 29, 2004 : Attorney Docket No. 2004-0145

SUBSTRATE TRANSPORT APPARATUS,
POD AND METHOD

**(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation
of Serial No. 10/000,304,
Filed December 4, 2001)**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. 10/000,304.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page ,
 - d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoko SUZUKI et al.
By 

Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 29, 2004

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY LIABILITY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> Date Submitted to PTO: January 29, 2004			ATTY DOCKET NO. 2004-0145		SERIAL NO. NEW		
			APPLICANT Yoko SUZUKI et al.				
			FILING DATE January 29, 2004		GROUP		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,346,518	9/1994	Baseman et al.			
	AB	6,040,680	3/2000	Toya et al.			
	AC	5,380,503	1/1995	Fujii et al.			
	AD	2001/0011640	8/2001	Suzuki et al.			
	AE	4,967,295	10/1990	Yamauchi et al.			
	AF	6,436,849	8/2002	Hasunuma et al.			
	AG	4,471,716	9/1984	Milliren			
	AH	5,207,548	5/1993	Suffel			
	AI	5,255,797	10/1993	Kos			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	2000-174109	6/2000	JP			
	AK	9-29020	2/1997	JP			
	AL	6-291177	10/1994	JP			
	AM	7-94577	4/1995	JP			
	AN	617573A		EP			
	AO	69401023C		DE			
	AP	11-195699	7/1999	JP			
	AQ	2000-223554	8/2000	JP			
	AR	11-314703	11/1999	JP			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>							
	AS	Shoko ITO et al., "Wafer ambient control for Agile FAB", 0-7803-6731-6/01/\$10.00©2001 IEEE, pgs. 121-124.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

FORM PTO 1449 (<i>modified</i>) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> Date Submitted to PTO: January 29, 2004			ATTY DOCKET NO. 2004-0145		SERIAL NO. NEW		
			APPLICANT Yoko SUZUKI et al.				
			FILING DATE January 29, 2004		GROUP		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,749,469	5/1998	Williams			
	AB	6,364,922	4/2002	Tanaka et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AC	11-40207	2/1999	JP			
	AD	381356B		TW			
	AE	0560379A1	9/1993	EP			
	AF	6-29373	2/1994	JP			
	AG	69304570C		DE			
	AH	2000-311936	11/2000	JP			
	AI	7-293956	11/1995	JP			
	AK	7-125806	5/1995	JP			
	AL	3-143518	6/1991	JP			
	AM	11-274282	10/1999	JP			
	AN	2000-253596	9/2000	JP			
	AO	1297882A1	4/2003	EP			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AP						
	AQ						
	AR						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.